

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 34-45 and 49 (Cancelled)

46. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 34, for drying a solution containing macromolecules, further comprising the steps of:

- (1) receiving a vessel containing the solution;
- (2) directing a gas into the vessel;
- (3) sensing a moisture content of the solution; and
- (4) terminating step (2) when the moisture content of the solution reaches a predetermined level.

47. (Currently amended) A The method according to claim 34, for drying a solution containing macromolecules, further comprising the steps of:

- (1) receiving a vessel containing the solution;
- (2) directing a gas into the vessel;
- (3) pressurizing the gas to a first pressure when a level of the solution is at a first level; and
- (4) pressurizing the gas to a second pressure when the level of the solution in the vessel is at a second level.

48. (Currently amended) A ~~The method according to claim 34, for drying a~~
solution containing macromolecules, further comprising the steps of:

(1) receiving a vessel containing the solution;

(2) directing a gas into the vessel;

(3) heating the gas to a first temperature when a level of the solution is at a
first level; and

(4) heating the gas to a second temperature when the level of the solution in
the vessel is at a second level.

50. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of:

(5) filtering the gas.

51. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of:

(5) heating the gas.

52. (New) The method according to claim 51, further comprising the steps of:

(6) monitoring a temperature of the gas; and

(7) adjusting the temperature of the gas to correspond to a desired
temperature.

53. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of:

(5) pressurizing the gas.

54. (New) The method according to claim 53, further comprising the steps of:

(6) monitoring a pressure of the gas; and

(7) adjusting the pressure of the gas to correspond to a desired pressure.

55. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of:
- (5) heating the solution in the vessel.
56. (New) The method according to claim 55, further comprising the steps of:
- (6) monitoring a temperature of the solution; and
 - (7) adjusting the temperature of the solution to correspond to a desired temperature.
57. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of:
- (5) performing steps (1) - (4) on a plurality of vessels.
58. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the step of:
- (5) tilting the vessel
59. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein step (2) comprises the step of:
- (a) directing the gas substantially at the solution.
60. (New) The method according to claim 46, wherein step (2) comprises the step of:
- (a) directing the gas substantially horizontal to the solution.
61. (New) The method according to claim 46, further comprising the steps of:
- (5) heating the solution to a first temperature when a level of the solution is at a first level; and
 - (6) heating the solution to a second temperature when the level of the solution in the vessel is at a second level.

62. (New) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of:
(5) filtering the gas.
63. (New) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of:
(5) heating the gas.
64. (New) The method according to claim 63, further comprising the steps of :
(6) monitoring a temperature of the gas; and
(7) adjusting the temperature of the gas to correspond to a desired temperature.
65. (New) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the steps of:
(5) monitoring a pressure of the gas; and
(6) adjusting the pressure of the gas to correspond to a desired pressure.
66. (New) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of:
(5) heating the solution in the vessel.
67. (New) The method according to claim 66, further comprising the steps of:
(6) monitoring a temperature of the solution; and
(7) adjusting the temperature of the solution to correspond to a desired temperature.
68. (New) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of:
(5) performing steps (1) - (4) on a plurality of vessels.
69. (New) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the step of:
(5) tilting the vessel

70. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein step (2) comprises the step of:

(a) directing the gas substantially at the solution.

71. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein step (2) comprises the step of:

(a) directing the gas substantially horizontal to the solution.

72. (New) The method according to claim 47, further comprising the steps of:

(5) heating the solution to a first temperature when a level of the solution is at a first level; and

(6) heating the solution to a second temperature when the level of the solution in the vessel is at a second level.

73. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of:

(5) filtering the gas.

74. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising the steps of :

(5) monitoring a temperature of the gas; and

(6) adjusting the temperature of the gas to correspond to a desired temperature.

75. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of:

(5) pressurizing the gas.

76. (New) The method according to claim 75, further comprising the steps of:

(6) monitoring a pressure of the gas; and

(7) adjusting the pressure of the gas to correspond to a desired pressure.

77. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of:

(5) heating the solution in the vessel.

78. (New) The method according to claim 77, further comprising the steps of:

(6) monitoring a temperature of the solution; and

(7) adjusting the temperature of the solution to correspond to a desired temperature.

79. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of:

(5) performing steps (1) - (4) on a plurality of vessels.

80. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising the step of:

(5) tilting the vessel

81. (New) The method according to claim 48, wherein step (2) comprises the

step of:

(a) directing the gas substantially at the solution.

82. (New) The method according to claim 48, wherein step (2) comprises the

step of:

(a) directing the gas substantially horizontal to the solution.

83. (New) The method according to claim 48, further comprising the steps of:

(5) heating the solution to a first temperature when a level of the solution is at a first level; and

(6) heating the solution to a second temperature when the level of the solution in the vessel is at a second level.